

# THE 3D MARINE DIVISION AND ITS REGIMENTS



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*CH-46 helicopters land to pick up the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, at the beginning of Operation Lancaster II near the Demilitarized Zone in South Vietnam on 17 July 1968. (Department of Defense [USMC] Photo A191652)*

# The 3d Marine Division and Its Regiments

by  
Reference Section  
Historical Branch



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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## The 3d Marine Division

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THE 3D MARINE DIVISION, officially activated 16 September 1942, at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California, was built around the 9th Marines. Major General Charles D. Barrett became the first commanding general of the division. As the year drew to a close, the 3d Division, still in the process of training and organization, consisted of three infantry regiments, the 9th, 21st, and 23d Marines; an artillery regiment, the 12th Marines; an engineer regiment, the 19th Marines; special troops composed of the 3d Headquarters Battalion, the 3d Parachute Battalion, the 3d Tank Battalion, and the 3d Special Weapons Battalion; the 3d Service Battalion; the 3d Medical Battalion; and the 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion. All of these units were located at Camp Elliott, except the 21st and 23d Marines, which were at New River, North Carolina.

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1943, the division moved from Camp Elliott to Auckland, New Zealand. On 23 May 1943, the 3d Marines (Reinforced), then on Samoa, joined the 3d Marine Division, replacing the 23d Marines.

BY AUGUST 1943, all major units of the division were stationed on Guadalcanal where special training and rehearsals for the Bougainville operation were intensified. On 1 November 1943, the division, with the 3d and 9th Marines in assault, landed at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville; the 21st Marines followed in six days. For approximately two months the division, now commanded by Major General Allen H. Turnage, fought in the front lines against stiff and heavy enemy resistance. On 16 January 1944, with the transfer of command in the area to the Ar-

*Facing camera at a World War II strategy session, Admiral William F. Halsey, Commander, Third Fleet, seated second from right, confers with Major General Roy S. Geiger, Commander of I Marine Amphibious Corps, seated at Halsey's left, and Major General Allen H. Turnage, Commanding General of the 3d Marine Division, seated at*





*Third Division unit wearing camouflaged uniforms takes a short break along a jungle track as it moves up to the front lines on Bougainville on 4 November 1944.*



*Third Division Marines pursue retreating Japanese along a jungle trail on Guam on 29 July 1944.*

my's XIV Corps, the last elements of the 3d Marine Division returned to Guadalcanal.

FOLLOWING THE BOUGAINVILLE OPERATION, the division began training for the next campaign. Verbal instructions received in February 1944 led to planning for an operation against the Japanese on Emirau Island. The projected Emirau operation was subsequently cancelled and verbal instructions were received to initiate planning for an operation against enemy forces at Kavieng, New Ireland. This operation was also called off, and a few days later the division received word to start training for the amphibious assault against Guam in the Mariana Islands.

THE DIVISION EMBARKED AT GUADALCANAL, 2 and 3 June 1944, and sailed for Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, enroute to the Marianas. It remained afloat off Saipan from 15 to 28 June 1944, as part of the reserve force for the Saipan operation then being carried out by the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions in conjunction with the 27th Infantry Division. With the situation on Saipan well controlled, the 3d Marine Division returned to its restaging area awaiting a new target date for the Guam operation.



ON 21 JULY 1944, as a part of the Southern Troops and Landing Force, the 3d Marine Division, with three regiments abreast, landed on the western beaches of Guam, in the vicinity of Asan Point. After 20 days of savage fighting, the division troops reached the northern coast of the island. On 10 August 1944 Guam was declared secure. Until its departure for the Iwo Jima campaign, the division remained on Guam taking part in the mopping-up operations.

BY THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY 1945, the 3d Marine Division completed embarkation at Guam preparatory to participation in the Iwo Jima operation. Initially the division remained afloat off Iwo Jima as Expeditionary Troops Reserve. One regiment, the 21st Marines, landed on 21 February. The remaining units (less the 3d Marines in floating reserve) landed on 24 February, and the next morning the 3d Marine Division launched an attack in its zone between the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions.

THE 3D MARINE DIVISION faced well-organized and determined enemy resistance. The terrain, ideal for defense, was heavily fortified by pillboxes, caves, and covered ar-



*Rubble litters the streets of Agana, Guam, capital of the island and the first American city of any size to be liberated from the Japanese during World War II, as 3d Division Marines advance against the enemy.*

*A Marine Sherman tank blasts a Japanese pillbox in advance of 3d Division infantrymen on Guam in August 1944. Marine at right carries a souvenir Japanese sword on his pack.*



tillery emplacements. Progress was slow and casualties heavy during the first few days of fighting. The division slowly pushed the enemy back and by 3 March had severed the last enemy east-west artery of communication by occupying positions overlooking the sea. The 3d Division secured its zone of action on 11 March and then initiated intensive patrolling and mopping-up operations. On 16 March, units of the 3d Division relieved elements of the 5th Division and delivered the final attack of the Iwo Jima operation—a drive toward Kitano Point. Iwo Jima was declared secure on the same day. On 4 April, the 3d Marine Division was relieved by Army units.

BY MID-APRIL 1945, all units of the division were back on Guam, preparing for the next operation. In addition, the division patrolled the southern part of the island. On 3 August 1945, the 3d Marine Division received initial plans for Operation Olympic which called for an amphibious landing on the Japanese home island of Kyushu about 1 November 1945. The 3d Marine Division, along with the 2d and 5th Marine Divisions, was assigned to the V Amphibious Corps for the projected operation. Japan's agreement to cease hostilities and subsequent surrender cancelled Olympic, and the 3d Marine Division remained on Guam until the date of its deactivation on 28 December 1945.



*3d Division Marines man hastily prepared position amid the ruins of an Iwo Jima sulfur mine and refinery west of Motoyama Village in March 1945.*

*Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith, right, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, who commanded the Marines in the seizure of Iwo Jima, congratulates Major General Graves B. Erskine, Commander of the 3d Marine Division, on the division's valorous service in breaking the backbone of Japanese resistance on the island.*



THE 3D MARINE DIVISION was reactivated on 7 January 1952, at Camp Pendleton, California. Brigadier General Mettrill B. Twining became temporary division commander until the arrival of Major General Robert H. Peppet on 15 February 1952. Immediately after its activation and still in its organizational state, the division began intensive combat training, including new tactics and maneuvers based on lessons learned in the Korean War. During the remaining part of 1952, elements of the division participated in numerous exercises and training problems, including vertical envelopment (helicopter landing), airborne operations and attack, and defense against atomic weapons and missiles. By the end of 1952 the division consisted of all its organic elements; three infantry regiments (the 3d, 4th, and 9th Marines); an artillery regiment (the 12th Marines); and all divisional support elements.

IN AUGUST 1953, the bulk of the 3d Marine Division, commanded by General Pepper, arrived in Japan to support the 1st Marine Division in Korea in the defense of the Far Eastern area. The division remained in Japan until early 1956 when it redeployed to Okinawa. The 4th Marines and various supporting elements became part of the 1st Brigade in Hawaii.

ON 6 MARCH 1965, forward elements of the division made an amphibious landing at Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. Early in April, division units were helilifted to Hue/Phu Bai to assume defense of the area. The headquarters, 3d Marine Division Forward, under the command of Major General William R. Collins, was located in Da Nang on 6 May. The Chu Lai area came under control of the 3d Division on 12 May. Major General Lewis W. Walt assumed command of the division in June 1965.

AFTER a 1 July Viet Cong attack on Da Nang air base, the division extended the Da Nang defense area to the south and southeast. Additional units were brought in from Okinawa and on 8 July, elements of the division landed at Qui Nhon, 146 miles south of Da Nang, creating a fourth operational area.

OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS the division successfully executed more than 120 major operations, including Starlite, Hastings, Scotland, Napoleon/Saline, and Dewey Canyon. In Operation Hastings, division units stopped a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) drive into South Vietnam, and laid groundwork for the division's move north, which occurred on 9 October 1966. Many of its units had already been committed to sealing the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) against the northern infiltrators. The two northernmost provinces, Quang Tri and Thua Thien, now became the responsibility of the division.



*Marines of the 1st Platoon, Company G, 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, wade a shallow stream on patrol on 6 May 1965, shortly after arrival in Vietnam.*

DIVISION UNITS AGAIN STOPPED a breakthrough attempt by the NVA south of the DMZ in the Cam Lo area during Operation Prairie II. The determined resistance the 3d Marine Division made against the NVA at Hills 881 North and South and Hill 861 in the Khe Sanh area showed the enemy the U.S. was going to stay in the isolated northwestern corner of South Vietnam.

REPEATED ARTILLERY and rocket attacks on the Dong Ha combat base generated many attacks and sweeps by division units south of the DMZ. They cleared the area below the zone and penetrated the southern half of the buffer strip to clear out troop concentrations and again stop invasion threats by the North Vietnamese.

THE 3D DIVISION remained in Vietnam until the fall of 1969. Division headquarters, under the command of Major General William K. Jones, returned to Okinawa in November 1969. Since that time, elements of the 3d

Marine Division have embarked in ships of the Seventh Fleet as battalion landing teams. Other units of the 3d Marine Division returned to Indochina to aid in the evacuation of Americans and Vietnamese and Cambodian nationals in the spring of 1975. Marines also served as security detachments on board U.S. Navy ships and American merchant ships during the sea evacuation of Da Nang and as ground security forces at Saigon and Phnom Penh during air evacuations. Elements of the 3d Marine Division played an integral role in the rescue of the crew of the SS *Mayaguez* captured off the coast of Cambodia in May 1975.

THE 3D MARINE DIVISION continues to maintain its combat-ready posture as a force-in-readiness in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean areas. In numerous amphibious landings and training exercises throughout the region during the 1970s and early 1980s, the Division, as the ground combat element of III Marine Amphibious Force, has remained a highly visible reminder of American commitment to regional stability.



*A tank infantry team from 3d Tank Battalion and Company B, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, leaves its line of departure in an operation along the coastal lowlands of Quang Tri Province in Vietnam in 1968.*

*Company G, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, participating in Operation Hastings in Vietnam in July 1966, moves through high grass south of the Demilitarized Zone.*



# 3d Division

## Commanding Generals

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MajGen Charles D. Barrett ..... 16 September 1942 - 14 September 1943  
 MajGen Allen H. Turnage ..... 15 September 1943 - 14 September 1944  
 BGen Alfred H. Noble ..... 15 September 1944 - 13 October 1944  
 MajGen Graves B. Erskine ..... 14 October 1944 - 20 October 1945  
 BGen William E. Riley ..... 21 October 1945 - 28 December 1945  
  
 BGen Merrill B. Twining ..... 7 January 1952 - 14 February 1952  
 MajGen Robert H. Pepper ..... 15 February 1952 - 9 May 1954  
 MajGen James P. Risely ..... 10 May 1954 - 30 June 1955  
 MajGen Thomas A. Wornham ..... 1 July 1955 - 26 July 1956  
 BGen Victor H. Krulak ..... 27 July 1956 - 6 September 1956  
  
 MajGen Alan Shapley ..... 7 September 1956 - 1 July 1957  
 MajGen Francis M. McAlister ..... 2 July 1957 - 28 March 1958  
 MajGen David M. Shoup ..... 29 March 1958 - 1 April 1959  
 Col Rathvon McC. Tompkins (Acting) ..... 2 April 1959 - 8 May 1959  
 BGen Lewis C. Hudson ..... 9 May 1959 - 19 June 1959  
  
 MajGen Robert B. Luckey ..... 20 June 1959 - 31 August 1960  
 MajGen Donald M. Weller ..... 1 September 1960 - 1 September 1961  
 MajGen Robert E. Cushman, Jr. .... 2 September 1961 - 3 June 1962  
 MajGen Henry W. Buse, Jr. .... 4 June 1962 - 9 May 1963  
 MajGen James M. Masters, Sr. .... 10 May 1963 - 16 June 1964  
  
 MajGen William R. Collins ..... 17 June 1964 - 4 June 1965  
 MajGen Lewis W. Walt ..... 5 June 1965 - 17 March 1966  
 MajGen Wood B. Kyle ..... 18 March 1966 - 17 March 1967  
 MajGen Bruno A. Hochmuth ..... 18 March 1967 - 14 November 1967  
 BGen Louis Metzger (Acting) ..... 15 November 1967 - 27 November 1967  
  
 MajGen Rathvon McC. Tompkins ..... 28 November 1967 - 20 May 1968  
 MajGen Raymond G. Davis ..... 21 May 1968 - 14 April 1969  
 MajGen William K. Jones ..... 15 April 1969 - 30 March 1970  
 MajGen Louis H. Wilson ..... 31 March 1970 - 22 March 1971  
 MajGen Louis Metzger ..... 23 March 1971 - 7 January 1972  
  
 MajGen Joseph C. Fegan ..... 8 January 1972 - 7 January 1973  
 MajGen Michael P. Ryan ..... 8 January 1973 - 31 August 1973  
 MajGen Fred E. Haynes, Jr. .... 1 September 1973 - 22 August 1974  
 MajGen Kenneth J. Houghton ..... 23 August 1974 - 13 August 1975  
 MajGen Herbert L. Wilkerson ..... 14 August 1975 - 19 July 1976

MajGen George W. Smith .....	20 July 1976 - 16 July 1977
MajGen Adolph G. Schwenk .....	17 July 1977 - 10 July 1978
MajGen Calhoun J. Killeen .....	11 July 1978 - 11 July 1979
MajGen Kenneth L. Robinson, Jr. ....	12 July 1979 - 24 July 1980
MajGen Stephen G. Olmstead .....	25 July 1980 - 21 June 1982
MajGen Robert E. Haebel .....	22 June 1982 - present

# 3d Marine Division

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## *LINEAGE*

1942 - 1945

ACTIVATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1942 AT CAMP ELLIOT, CALIFORNIA, AS THE  
3D MARINE DIVISION  
DEPLOYED DURING JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1943 TO AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND  
PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS:  
BOUGAINVILLE  
NORTHERN SOLOMONS  
GUAM  
IWO JIMA  
DEACTIVATED 28 DECEMBER 1945

1952 - 1964

REACTIVATED 7 JANUARY 1952 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AS THE  
3D MARINE DIVISION  
REDEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1953 TO CAMP GIFU, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 1956 TO CAMP COURTNEY, OKINAWA

1965 - 1983

REDEPLOYED DURING APRIL-MAY 1965 TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, APRIL 1965 - NOVEMBER 1969, OPERATING FROM:  
QUANG TRI PROVINCE  
QUANG NAM PROVINCE  
THUA THIEN PROVINCE  
REDEPLOYED DURING NOVEMBER 1969 TO CAMP COURTNEY, OKINAWA  
ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN EVACUATION OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM AND  
CAMBODIA, MARCH-MAY 1975  
PARTICIPATED IN NUMEROUS TRAINING EXERCISES THROUGHOUT THE 1970S

# 3d Marine Division

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II

IWO JIMA - 1945

VIETNAM 1965 - 1967

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II

IWO JIMA - 1945

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

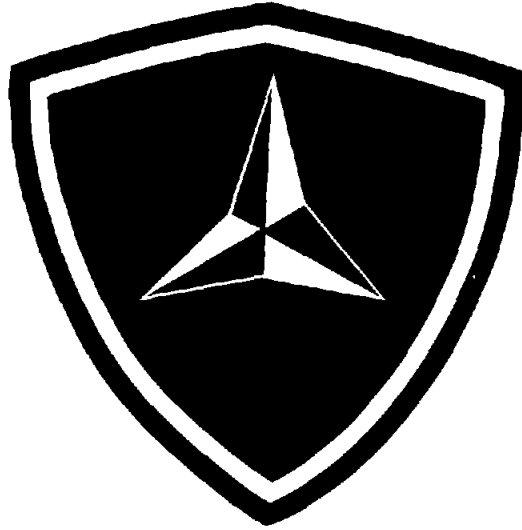
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER STARS AND ONE BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY STREAMER WITH PALM





### THE 3D MARINE DIVISION PATCH

*The 3d Marine Division shoulder patch worn during World War II is in scarlet and gold, the official colors of the Marine Corps, and consists of a scarlet triangular shield with a narrow gold line near the outer edge. In the center of the shield is a gold and black caltrap, an ancient military instrument with four metal points so disposed that any three of them being on the ground the other projects upward, thereby impeding the progress of the enemy's cavalry. Literally: Don't step on me! Also the three visible points of the caltrap represent the division number. This insignia was authorized in August 1943. In 1947, the wearing of unit shoulder patches by all Marine Corps units was discontinued.*

# The 3d Marines

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THE 3D MARINES was originally activated as the 3d Regiment of Marines on 20 December 1916 at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, under the command of Colonel Theodore A. Kane. As part of the 2d Provisional Brigade, the regiment's duties in the early part of the occupation consisted of the administration of the military government, disarming of the population, and control of banditry. Because the fundamental aim of the occupation was to bring peace to the Dominican Republic and enable the Dominicans to govern themselves, a native constabulary, the *Guardia Nacional Dominicana* was formed. Trained and officered in part by Marines of the 3d Regiment, the *Guardia* was gradually able to assume the duties of protecting life and property and suppressing the bandits that infested the countryside. Throughout World War I, the 3d Regiment remained in the Dominican Republic. The unit was deactivated there on 1 August 1922.

THE 3D MARINES was reactivated on 16 June 1942 at New River, North Carolina under Colonel Oscar R. Cauldwell. Built around a cadre of officers and enlisted men remaining at New River after the 1st Marine Division had mounted out, the new regiment was quickly brought up to strength by a daily influx of recruits arriving directly from Parris Island. In August, the 3d Marines left New River for San Diego. The following month it was deployed overseas, first to Samoa and then to New Zealand. The 3d Marines was reorganized and incorporated as a unit of the 3d Marine Division in June 1943. Combat training continued for the 3d Marines while in New Zealand. The 3d Marine Division was first inspected as a whole in June 1943 and was found fit and combat ready. The division then moved to Guadalcanal, a staging area prior to its commitment to combat.

THE FIRST COMBAT ASSIGNMENT for the regiment, now commanded by Colonel George W. McHenry, was to take part in the invasion of the Japanese-held island of Bougainville. Rehearsals were held at Efate, New Hebrides in October. Assault elements of the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines were the first to hit the beaches of Bougainville on 1 November 1943. The initial waves of the 2d and 3d Battalions reached the beaches with only light opposition, but

the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines received heavy fire before landing on its assigned beach. The next day, the Marines expanded their beachhead and pushed inland. Extension of the beachhead continued as the 3d Marines battled a persistent enemy. The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines blunted a Japanese attack on 7 November in the Laruma River area. By 21 November, the 1st and 3d Battalions occupied critical terrain in the Piva Forks area, thereby cutting Japanese supply and communications lines. The regiment had been committed for 27 consecutive days before it exchanged sectors with the 9th Marines. From 28 November until 22 December, the 3d Marines occupied the extreme southern flank of the division line where its patrols had several sharp skirmishes with the Japanese. On Christmas Day, the 3d embarked for Guadalcanal.

*Smoke and flames billow from a gasoline and oil dump set afire by a large Japanese air raid on 3d Marine Division positions at Empress Augusta Bay on the island of Bougainville on 20 November 1943.*





*Private First Class Luther Skaggs, Jr., receives the Medal of Honor from President Truman, for heroic service with the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines on Guam.*

SEVEN MONTHS LATER, the regiment, now commanded by Colonel William C. Hall, was headed for its second combat mission—the invasion of Guam. The 1st and 3d Battalions of the 3d Marines received intense mortar and artillery fire during their assault landing on 21 July 1944. As the first day wore on the 3d Marines met stiff opposition over increasingly difficult terrain. The fighting for the regiment continued with great intensity for the next few days, but the 3d Marines continued to advance. During the night of 25-26 July, after an exhaustive artillery and mortar preparation, the enemy began to counterattack all along the Marine line. The Japanese were driven back with heavy losses, but small groups infiltrated the lines only to be systematically mopped-up on the morning of the 26th. On 10 August 1944 the island was declared secure although sporadic resistance continued. The 3d Marines remained on Guam for mopping-up operations.

THE 3D MARINES next combat assignment was that of floating reserve for the Iwo Jima operation in February 1945. The regiment, under Colonel James A. Stuart, did

not land and soon returned to Guam. Guam was still far from being peaceful as many Japanese continued to roam the island. Following Japan's surrender, the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines arrived on Chichi Jima on 10 October 1945 to receive the surrender of the Japanese forces on the island. The 3d Marines sailed for San Diego in December 1945 and was deactivated at Camp Pendleton on 13 January 1946.

LESS THAN TWO YEARS LATER the 3d Marines was reactivated as a battalion-sized organization in Tsingtao, China on 1 October 1947 commanded by Colonel Jaime Sabater. The political situation began to deteriorate as the Chinese Communists made a rapid and successful advance against Chinese Nationalist forces. By December 1948, most American nationals had left China. The 3d Marines went on board ships in February 1949 and sailed for Shanghai the following month to aid in the evacuation of American and foreign nationals. The task completed, the 3d Marines returned to Tsingtao to pick up elements left there, and then sailed for the United States in May. The 3d Marines was stationed at Camp Pendleton until its deactivation on 1 October 1949.

DURING THE KOREAN WAR the 3d Marines, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John J. Gormley, was reactivated at Camp Pendleton on 20 June 1951 as part of the 3d Marine Brigade. Six months later, in January 1952, it was reassigned to the 3d Marine Division. The division went to Japan in August 1953 and the 3d Marines set up quarters at Camp Fuji-McNair. During its stay in Japan, the regiment conducted many field and landing exercises. The 3d Marines was relocated to Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, in March 1957. Elements of the regiment were deployed to various areas in the Far East when political upheavals or crises occurred between 1957 and 1964.

AS AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT in the war in Vietnam grew, the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines was airlifted to Da Nang in March 1965. The remainder of the regiment, now commanded by Colonel Edwin B. Wheeler, was deployed to Vietnam during April and May 1965. After setting up and occupying positions from the north to the south-central sector of the Da Nang perimeter, the 3d Marines' mission was to eliminate the Viet Cong from its sector. In October 1966, regimental headquarters under Colonel Edward E. Hammerbeck deployed to Camp Carroll in an area immediately south of the demilitarized zone. For the next year, the 3d Marines participated in such operations as Prairie, Cimarron, Hickory, and Lancaster in the Camp Carroll area.

IN FEBRUARY 1968 the 3d Marines took part in Operation Napoleon/Saline along the Cua Viet River. Its mission was to conduct combat operations on both sides of the river to insure free shipping on the river and to deny the enemy access to rocker positions which could be used to fire on Dong Ha and Quang Tri. The 3d Marines participated in Operation Kentucky in December 1968 and assisted Vietnamese forces in pacification of Cam Lo and Huong Hoa District. Operation Maine Crag began in March 1969 when the 3d Marines began sweep and clear operations south of the old Khe Sanh Combat Base. The 3d Marines participated in Operations Virginia Ridge and Idaho Canyon before leaving Vietnam in October 1969.

REDEPLOYMENT TO THE UNITED STATES was completed in November 1969 when the regiment arrived at Camp Pendleton and was assigned to the 5th Marine Amphibious Brigade. In June 1971 the 3d Marines relocated to the Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, Hawaii, and was reassigned to the 1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force.

SINCE THIS TIME, the regiment has continued to maintain the highest level of combat readiness for amphibious warfare by maintaining a rigorous training schedule on all levels of unit operations, engaging in numerous field and fleet exercises, and by providing battalion landing teams for deployment to the Western Pacific.

*CH-46 helicopters land to pick up the 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, at the beginning of Operation Lancaster II near the Demilitarized Zone in South Vietnam on 17 July 1968.*



## Commanding Officers 3d Marines

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Col Theodore A. Kane .....	20 December 1916 - 31 December 1916
Maj Hiram I. Bearss .....	1 January 1917 - 20 March 1917
LtCol John H. Russell, Jr. ....	21 March 1917 - 18 April 1917
LtCol William McKelvy .....	19 April 1917 - 27 May 1917
LtCol George C. Thorpe .....	28 May 1917 - 19 October 1917
 Col William McKelvy .....	 20 October 1917 - 16 December 1917
LtCol George C. Thorpe .....	17 December 1917 - 1 February 1918
Col Philip M. Bannon .....	2 February 1918 - 20 November 1918
Col Carl Gamborg-Andresen .....	21 November 1918 - 24 April 1920
LtCol Edward A. Greene .....	25 April 1920 - 1 August 1920
 LtCol Charles B. Taylor .....	 2 August 1920 - 25 August 1920
Maj Charles S. McReynolds .....	26 August 1920 - 12 September 1920
LtCol Henry C. Davis .....	13 September 1920 - 23 June 1922
LtCol Edward B. Manwaring .....	24 June 1922 - 20 July 1922
Col Carroll C. Carpenter .....	21 July 1922 - 1 August 1922
 Col Oscar R. Cauldwell .....	 16 June 1942 - 14 September 1943
Col George W. McHenry .....	15 September 1943 - 16 December 1943
Col Walter A. Wachtler .....	17 December 1943 - 27 December 1943
LtCol George Van Orden .....	28 December 1943 - 21 January 1944
Col William C. Hall .....	22 January 1944 - 28 July 1944
 Col James A. Stuart .....	 29 July 1944 - 30 March 1945
LtCol Newton B. Barkley .....	1 April 1945 - 22 April 1945
Col Lester S. Hamel .....	23 April 1945 - 12 October 1945
Col Prentice S. Geer .....	13 October 1945 - 23 October 1945
LtCol Ewart S. Laue .....	24 October 1945 - 13 January 1946
 Col Jaime Sabater .....	 1 October 1947 - 1 April 1948
Col Frederick L. Wieseman .....	2 April 1948 - 17 August 1948
Col Walfried M. Fromhold .....	18 August 1948 - 24 October 1948
LtCol Thomas J. Colley .....	25 October 1948 - 15 April 1949
LtCol Robert O. Bowen .....	16 April 1949 - 28 April 1949
 LtCol William J. McKennan .....	 29 April 1949 - 25 July 1949
LtCol Raymond L. Murray .....	26 July 1949 - 1 October 1949
LtCol John J. Gormley .....	20 June 1951 - 15 July 1951
Col Michael S. Currin .....	16 July 1951 - 14 March 1952
Col John G. Bouker .....	15 March 1952 - 1 August 1952

Col Robert H. Williams . . . . . 2 August 1952 - 27 March 1954  
 LtCol Eugene H. Strayhorn . . . . . 28 March 1954 - 1 April 1954  
 Col Parker R. Colmer . . . . . 2 April 1954 - 3 July 1954  
 LtCol Cecil W. Shuler . . . . . 4 July 1954 - 26 July 1954  
 Col Robert E. Hill . . . . . 27 July 1954 - 28 February 1955  
  
 Col Edmund M. Williams . . . . . 1 March 1955 - 20 June 1955  
 LtCol Robert E. Snider . . . . . 21 June 1955 - 11 August 1955  
 Col Merrill M. Day . . . . . 12 August 1955 - 28 February 1956  
 Col Willard C. Fiske . . . . . 1 March 1956 - 15 May 1956  
 Col John P. Stafford . . . . . 16 May 1956 - 25 August 1956  
  
 LtCol Earl A. Cash . . . . . 26 August 1956 - 27 August 1956  
 Col John G. Bouker . . . . . 28 August 1956 - 31 August 1957  
 Col William S. McCormack . . . . . 1 September 1957 - 3 May 1958  
 Col Richard Nutting . . . . . 4 May 1958 - 10 October 1958  
 Col Jess P. Ferrill, Jr. . . . . 11 October 1958 - 20 May 1959  
  
 Col George B. Kantner . . . . . 21 May 1959 - 3 October 1959  
 Col Louis C. Griffin . . . . . 4 October 1959 - 10 December 1959  
 LtCol James C. Short . . . . . 11 December 1959 - 29 January 1960  
 Col Walter Holomon . . . . . 30 January 1960 - 9 September 1960  
 Col Theodore F. Beeman . . . . . 10 September 1960 - 3 March 1961  
  
 LtCol Arthur L. Adams . . . . . 4 March 1961 - 26 March 1961  
 Col Charles A. Rigaud . . . . . 27 March 1961 - 6 July 1961  
 Col Albert F. Lucas . . . . . 7 July 1961 - 10 April 1962  
 Col Edward H. Hurst . . . . . 11 April 1962 - 10 April 1963  
 Col Spencer B. Pratt . . . . . 11 April 1963 - 3 April 1964  
  
 LtCol Lawrence L. Graham . . . . . 4 April 1964 - 19 May 1964  
 Col Virgil W. Banning . . . . . 20 May 1964 - 31 July 1964  
 Col Edwin B. Wheeler . . . . . 1 August 1964 - 22 May 1965  
 Col Frank E. Garrterson . . . . . 23 May 1965 - 11 June 1965  
 Col Edwin B. Wheeler . . . . . 12 June 1965 - 16 August 1965  
  
 Col Norman R. Nickerson . . . . . 17 August 1965 - 23 November 1965  
 Col Thell H. Fisher . . . . . 24 November 1965 - 15 April 1966  
 Col Harold A. Hayes, Jr. . . . . 16 April 1966 - 18 August 1966  
 Col Edward E. Hammerbeck . . . . . 19 August 1966 - 12 December 1966  
 Col John P. Lanigan . . . . . 13 December 1966 - 17 May 1967  
  
 Col James R. Stockman . . . . . 18 May 1967 - 25 August 1967  
 Col Joseph E. Loprete . . . . . 26 August 1967 - 17 February 1968  
 Col Milton A. Hull . . . . . 18 February 1968 - 14 July 1968  
 LtCol Vaughn R. Stuart . . . . . 15 July 1968 - 31 July 1968  
 Col Richard L. Michael, Jr. . . . . 1 August 1968 - 8 November 1968  
  
 Col Michael M. Spark . . . . . 9 November 1968 - 15 January 1969  
 Col Paul D. Lafond . . . . . 16 January 1969 - 27 June 1969  
 Col Wilbur F. Simlik . . . . . 28 June 1969 - 21 September 1969

Col Francis R. Kraince . . . . . 22 September 1969 - 26 November 1969  
Col Richard R. Breen . . . . . 27 November 1969 - 8 December 1969

Col Warren A. Butcher . . . . . 9 December 1969 - 12 November 1970  
Col Anthony A. Monti . . . . . 13 November 1970 - 14 April 1971  
LtCol Keith L. Christensen . . . . . 15 April 1971 - 21 June 1971  
LtCol Howard W. Wahlfeld . . . . . 22 June 1971 - 18 July 1971  
Col James P. Connolly, II . . . . . 19 July 1971 - 18 July 1973

Col John J. Grace . . . . . 19 Jul 1973 - 20 December 1974  
Col J. C. Rappe . . . . . 21 December 1974 - 27 August 1976  
Col John C. Studt . . . . . 28 August 1976 - 5 March 1978  
Col Paul D. Slack . . . . . 6 March 1978 - 31 December 1979  
Col Robert E. Loehe . . . . . 1 January 1980 - 13 July 1980

Col Louis H. Buehl . . . . . 14 July 1980 - 7 April 1982  
Col Edward M. Mockler . . . . . 8 April 1982 - 5 August 1982  
Col Henry J. M. Radcliffe . . . . . 6 August 1982 - present

# 3d Marines

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## *LINEAGE*

ACTIVATED 20 DECEMBER 1916 AS THE 3D REGIMENT AT SANTO DOMINGO,  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND ASSIGNED TO THE 2D PROVISIONAL BRIGADE  
PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,  
DECEMBER 1916 - AUGUST 1922  
DEACTIVATED 1 AUGUST 1922

1942 - 1946

REACTIVATED 16 JUNE 1942 AS THE 3D MARINES AT NEW RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA,  
AND ASSIGNED TO FLEET MARINE FORCE  
RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1942 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
DEPLOYED DURING SEPTEMBER 1942 TO TUTUILA, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND REASSIGNED TO  
THE 2D MARINE BRIGADE  
REASSIGNED DURING JUNE 1943 TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION  
PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS  
BOUGAINVILLE  
NORTHERN SOLOMONS  
GUAM  
IWO JIMA  
RELOCATED DURING DECEMBER 1945 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA  
DEACTIVATED 13 JANUARY 1946

1947 - 1949

REACTIVATED 1 OCTOBER 1947 AT TSINGTAO, CHINA AND ASSIGNED TO FLEET MARINE  
FORCE, WESTERN PACIFIC  
PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF NORTH CHINA, OCTOBER 1947 - MAY 1949  
RELOCATED DURING MAY 1949 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AND REASSIGNED TO  
THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION  
DEACTIVATED 1 OCTOBER 1949

1951 - 1964

REACTIVATED ON 20 JUNE 1951 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AND ASSIGNED TO



THE 3D MARINE BRIGADE  
REASSIGNED DURING JANUARY 1952 TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION  
DEPLOYED DURING JULY 1953 TO KANEOHE BAY, TERRITORY OF HAWAII  
REDEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1953 TO CAMP FUJI-McNAIR, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING MARCH 1957 TO CAMP SUKIRAN, OKINAWA

1965 - 1983

REDEPLOYED DURING MARCH-MAY 1965 TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, MARCH 1965 - SEPTEMBER 1969, OPERATING FROM:

DA NANG	CON THIEN
CHU LAI	CAMP CARROLL
HUE/PHU BAI	DONG HA
KHE SANH	QUANG TRI

RELOCATED DURING OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1969 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AND

REASSIGNED TO THE 5TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE

REASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1971 TO THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION

DEPLOYED DURING JUNE 1971 TO KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII AND REASSIGNED  
TO THE 1ST MARINE BRIGADE, FLEET MARINE FORCE

ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA EVACUATIONS, APRIL 1975

# 3d Marines

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II

GUAM - 1944

VIETNAM 1965 - 1967

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II

BOUGAINVILLE - 1943

VIETNAM - 1968

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

WORLD WAR I VICTORY STREAMER WITH WEST INDIES CLASP

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER WITH "ASIA"

CHINA SERVICE STREAMER

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER STARS

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY STREAMER WITH PALM

## The 4th Marines

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REVOLUTIONARY TROUBLE IN MEXICO precipitated the activation of the 4th Regiment of Marines at Marine Barracks, Puget Sound, Washington, on 16 April 1914 under the command of Colonel Joseph A. Pendleton. Three times during its first two years the 4th Regiment embarked, stood by afloat off various Mexican west coast ports prepared to land on order. In each case no landing was required, nor did the regiment engage in combat.

IN THE SPRING OF 1916, civil war broke out in the Dominican Republic. Fears for the safety of American and other foreign citizens in the country convinced the American government that intervention in the situation was necessary. Colonel Pendleton's 4th Regiment departed San Diego by rail for New Orleans on 6 June where it boarded the USS *Hancock*. The regiment arrived in the Dominican Republic on 21 June 1916. In the vigorous campaigning that followed immediately, the 4th Regiment won its first battle honors and sustained its first battle casualties. As additional Marines were committed, it became one component of the three-regiment 2d Provisional Brigade. The 4th Regiment was destined to spend eight years in the Dominican Republic. As in most "bush" or "banana" wars, Marines performed a variety of tasks from policing the hinterland to running the railroads. They also trained a native constabulary to take over their chore of maintaining order once a stable civil government could be established. This occurred in October 1922, and the 4th Regiment sailed for San Diego in the summer of 1924.

FOLLOWING A PERIOD of routine garrison duties and a tour guarding the U.S. mails during the robbery epidemic of 1926-27, the regiment drew the assignment which was to win it fame and the descriptive nickname, the "China Regiment." The cause for alarm in the Far East in early 1927 stemmed from the threat that the Chinese Nationalists would seize Shanghai and endanger the foreign residents there. After standing by on 24-hour alert, the 4th Regiment, under Colonel Charles S. Hill, embarked in the USS *Chaumont* and sailed from San Diego on 3 February 1927. With the declaration of a state of emergency on 21 March, the 4th Regiment went ashore. The regiment's in-

itial mission became one of reinforcing the Marines already in Shanghai in the prevention of rioting and mob violence within the American sector. A few days after the landing of the 4th Regiment, Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler arrived in Shanghai to take command of all Marine forces ashore. His command was designated as the 3d Brigade.

SHANGHAI FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS was relatively peaceful and garrison duty for the 4th Regiment passed uneventfully. The 3d Brigade left China in early 1929 leaving the 4th Regiment behind. In February 1930 the regiment's designation was officially changed to the 4th Marines. The security of Shanghai was once again threatened in early 1932 after hostilities broke out between the Chinese and the Japanese. In 1937 the fighting became so

*Color guard of the 4th Marines participates in a parade in Shanghai, China, prior to World War II.*



intense that the 4th Marines, now commanded by Colonel Charles F.B. Price, and other foreign troops manned the barricades of the International Settlement in Shanghai. The 1937 situation developed into a series of potentially explosive crises as both sides resorted to aerial bombing with considerable carelessness and accompanying indiscriminate anti-aircraft and artillery fire. Again reinforcements were rushed in to support the 4th Marines. The 2d Brigade arrived in Shanghai in September 1937. The brigade was withdrawn early in 1938 when a shift of the scene of Sino-Japanese hostilities left Shanghai relatively safe. The 4th Marines once again remained behind.

AS THE THREAT of war between Japan and the United States became greater, the 4th Marines, now commanded by Colonel Samuel L. Howard, departed Shanghai for the Philippines in November 1941. A few days after the Japanese attack on the Philippines on 8 December, the 4th Marines, under tactical command of the Army, moved to Corregidor. Marines in the regiment worked feverishly throughout the protracted siege of the island fortress on defense measures and installations. The Japanese made their assault landing during the dark hours of 5-6 May 1942. In spite of dogged resistance by the defenders, the

Japanese gained a toehold on the island. At noon on 6 May 1942 the Americans on Corregidor surrendered. The men of the 4th Marines burned their colors and went into captivity. The regiment temporarily went out of existence.

THE 4TH MARINES was reborn on 1 February 1944 when it was reconstituted from units of the 1st Raider Regiment on Guadalcanal under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alan Shapley. The Raider regiment's battalions had fought at Guadalcanal, New Georgia, and Bougainville. Following its initial operation in its new capacity, an unopposed seizure of Emirau Island, the regiment returned to Guadalcanal where it was integrated into the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade on 19 April 1944.

THE 1ST PROVISIONAL BRIGADE was assigned to southern beaches in the Agat-Bangi Point area for the assault on Guam. Lieutenant Colonel Shapley's 4th Marines was in the first assault waves that hit the beaches on 21 July 1944. As the regiment moved inland it encountered stiff resistance and the heavy fighting continued throughout the day. During the ensuing night the 4th Marines successfully withstood several enemy counterattacks. The following day the regiment reached the top of Mount

*Twenty-fifth Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, commanded by First Lieutenant W. H. Hollingsworth, passes in review at a parade in Shanghai, China, in February 1932.*



Alifan across difficult terrain and secured the entire ridge line. Shortly before daybreak on 26 July, the 4th Marines led off the offensive on the Orote Peninsula. This objective was finally taken on the 29th. The end of organized resistance on Guam was announced on 10 August. The job of mopping-up Japanese survivors remained and the regiment stayed on Guam for nearly three weeks to aid in this task. It then moved back to its Guadalcanal base.

THE 1ST PROVISIONAL MARINE BRIGADE was redesignated as the 6th Marine Division on 7 September 1944. The division's initial combat mission was to secure the northern half of Okinawa. Lack of opposition during the landing on 1 April 1945 enabled the Marines to make significant gains in the first few days. The division reached Motobu Peninsula on 8 April and encountered its first serious opposition. Mount Yaetake formed the core of the Japanese defense and was the primary target of the 4th Marines. The struggle for the mountain was bitterly contested until 16 April when Marines from the 3d Battalion secured the summit. The 6th Marine Division moved south after northern Okinawa was declared secure. During the opening phase of the drive, the 4th Marines remained in division reserve. On 19 May, the regiment relieved the exhausted 29th Marines and played a major role in the advance that resulted in the capture of Naha. The next assignment of the 6th Division was the seizure of Oroku Peninsula. For a week the 4th Marines, with the 29th Marines, fought a well-entrenched enemy. Finally on 13 June the peninsula was undisputably in American hands.

THE 6TH MARINE DIVISION returned to Guam to set up a new base and trained for the planned invasion of Japan. It was during this time that Japan surrendered. The 4th Marines received the honor of spearheading the U.S. occupation of Japan, while the 6th Division was slated for occupation duty in North China. The regiment, now commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Fred D. Beans, landed at Yokosuka on 30 August 1945 to take over naval and air facilities. Early in 1946 the regiment redeployed to Tsingtao, China. In September 1946 the 4th Marines departed China for Norfolk, Virginia leaving behind the 3d Battalion which was deactivated there on 1 October 1947. The rest of the 4th Marines was assigned to the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune and reassigned to the 2d Provisional Marine Regiment in early 1949. The 4th Marines was deactivated on 17 October 1949.

THE 4TH MARINES, under the command of Colonel Robert O. Bowen, was reactivated at Camp Pendleton, California on 2 September 1952 as part of the 3d Marine Division.

The division was deployed to Japan in August 1953. While stationed there the 4th Marines was engaged in numerous exercises to maintain its combat efficiency. Less than 18 months after its arrival in Japan, the regiment was transferred to the Territory of Hawaii in February 1955 to become the ground echelon of the 1st Provisional Marine Air-Ground Task Force which was located at Kaneohe Bay. Redesignation of the task force to the 1st Marine Brigade took place on 1 May 1956.

THE 4TH MARINES' combat readiness was put to the test in early 1965 when the American involvement in the war in Vietnam was enlarged. After arriving at Chu Lai in May 1965, the regiment, now commanded by Colonel Edward P. Dupras, Jr., rejoined its parent 3d Marine Division. The first major engagement for the regiment was Operation Starlite. The remainder of 1965 saw elements of the 4th Marines engaging the enemy mostly in small unit actions. During the spring of 1966, the regiment shifted its operations from the southern to the northern part of the I Corps Tactical Zone of South Vietnam.

DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE, launched in January 1968, Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attacked cities and military installations throughout South Vietnam. The 2d Battalion in April 1968 was involved in especially bitter clashes near Dong Ha and along the Cua Viet River. Contact with enemy forces tapered off for the 4th Marines in the fall of 1968, although the regiment continued to conduct operations into the middle of 1969. With the announced withdrawal of American troops in 1969, the 4th Marines, now commanded by Colonel Gilbert R. Hershey, was ordered to Okinawa. All elements were redeployed by the end of November.

DURING THE EARLY 1970s the 4th Marines was involved with intensive training programs for amphibious warfare, civil disturbance, air mount-out, weapons requalification, and physical readiness.

THE 4TH MARINES Headquarters was activated as Regimental Landing Team - 4, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade from 18 April to 12 May 1975 to aid in the evacuations of Americans, Vietnamese, and Cambodians from Saigon and the surrounding areas. Under the command of Colonel Alfred M. Gray, the unit provided battalion landing teams and an air contingency battalion landing team for operations during this period.

IN APRIL 1979, the 4th Marines relocated from Camp Hansen to Camp Schwab, Okinawa.

## Commanding Officers 4th Marines

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Col Joseph H. Pendleton .....	16 April 1914 - 11 December 1916
Maj Arthur T. Marix .....	12 December 1916 - 31 December 1916
Col Theodore P. Kane .....	1 January 1917 - 4 May 1917
LtCol John H. Russell .....	5 May 1917 - 2 November 1917
LtCol Arthur T. Marix .....	3 November 1917 - 20 December 1917
Col William N. McKelvy .....	21 December 1917 - 17 April 1919
Col Dion Williams .....	18 April 1919 - 14 May 1921
Col Charles H. Lyman .....	15 May 1921 - 9 May 1923
LtCol Robert Y. Rhea .....	10 May 1923 - 22 July 1923
Col Alexander S. Williams .....	23 July 1923 - 7 March 1926
LtCol Ellis B. Miller .....	8 March 1926 - 27 June 1926
Col Charles S. Hill .....	28 June 1926 - 4 September 1927
LtCol Fred D. Kilgore .....	5 September 1927 - 6 October 1927
Col Henry C. Davis .....	7 October 1927 - 26 September 1928
LtCol Fred D. Kilgore .....	27 September 1928 - 13 January 1929
Col Charles H. Lyman .....	14 January 1929 - 20 November 1930
Col Richard S. Hooker .....	21 November 1930 - 23 December 1932
LtCol Emile P. Moses .....	24 December 1932 - 12 March 1933
Col Fred D. Kilgore .....	13 March 1933 - 6 May 1933
LtCol Emile P. Moses .....	7 May 1933 - 10 July 1933
Col John C. Beaumont .....	11 July 1933 - 6 May 1936
Col Charles F. B. Price .....	7 May 1936 - 23 October 1938
Col Joseph C. Fegan .....	24 October 1938 - 3 December 1939
LtCol Charles I. Murray .....	4 December 1939 - 2 January 1940
Col DeWitt Peck .....	3 January 1940 - 13 May 1941
Col Samuel L. Howard .....	14 May 1941 - 6 May 1942
LtCol Alan Shapley .....	1 February 1944 - 3 July 1945
LtCol Fred D. Beans .....	4 July 1945 - 27 January 1946
2dLt Paul W. Stone .....	28 January 1946 - 7 February 1946
2dLt Lawrence H. Cuthart, Jr. ....	8 February 1946 - 6 March 1946
Col William J. Whaling .....	7 March 1946 - 25 March 1946
Col John D. Blanchard .....	26 March 1946 - 8 June 1946
BGen William T. Clement .....	9 June 1946 - 24 August 1946
LtCol Robert L. Denig .....	25 August 1946 - 20 October 1946
LtCol Wesley McC. Platt .....	21 October 1946 - 10 July 1947

Col Robert B. Luckey . . . . . 11 July 1947 - 11 November 1947  
 LtCol Robert M. Reinecke . . . . . 12 November 1947 - 28 October 1948  
 LtCol Donald J. Decker . . . . . 29 October 1948 - 8 May 1949  
 Maj Donald E. Asbury . . . . . 9 May 1949 - 19 June 1949  
 LtCol John F. Dunlap . . . . . 20 June 1949 - 17 October 1949

Col Robert O. Bowen . . . . . 2 September 1952 - 2 October 1953  
 Col John C. Miller, Jr. . . . . 3 October 1953 - 6 April 1954  
 Col Frederick A. Ramsey . . . . . 7 April 1954 - 21 August 1954  
 LtCol Richard L. Boll . . . . . 22 August 1954 - 23 September 1954  
 Col Wood B. Kyle . . . . . 24 September 1954 - 5 June 1955

LtCol John E. Decher, Jr. . . . . 6 June 1955 - 22 June 1955  
 Col Robert E. Hill . . . . . 23 June 1955 - 18 August 1955  
 Col James M. Masters, Sr. . . . . 19 August 1955 - 8 June 1956  
 Col Bryghte D. Godbold . . . . . 9 June 1956 - 24 August 1957  
 Col George A. Roll . . . . . 25 August 1957 - 2 May 1958

Col John H. Masters . . . . . 3 May 1958 - 3 July 1959  
 Col Charles J. Bailey, Jr. . . . . 4 July 1959 - 6 July 1959  
 Col John W. Antonelli . . . . . 7 July 1959 - 1 August 1961  
 Col Allan Sutter . . . . . 2 August 1961 - 5 June 1962  
 Col William H. Marsh . . . . . 6 June 1962 - 1 September 1963

Col Donald J. Robinson . . . . . 2 September 1963 - 22 January 1964  
 Col Jules M. Rouse . . . . . 23 January 1964 - 24 April 1964  
 Col Edward P. Dupras, Jr. . . . . 25 April 1964 - 25 July 1965  
 Col James F. McClanahan . . . . . 26 July 1965 - 24 January 1966  
 Col Donald W. Sherman . . . . . 25 January 1966 - 29 July 1966

Col Alexander D. Cereghino . . . . . 30 July 1966 - 15 February 1967  
 Col Roy H. Thompson . . . . . 16 February 1967 - 9 July 1967  
 Col William L. Dick . . . . . 10 July 1967 - 25 February 1968  
 Col Edward J. Miller . . . . . 26 February 1968 - 13 September 1968  
 Col Martin J. Sexton . . . . . 14 September 1968 - 31 December 1968

Col William F. Goggin . . . . . 1 January 1969 - 9 August 1969  
 Col Gilbert R. Hershey . . . . . 10 August 1969 - 3 December 1969  
 Col William E. Barrineau . . . . . 4 December 1969 - 9 July 1970  
 LtCol Bain McClintock . . . . . 10 July 1970 - 4 August 1970  
 Col Robert T. Hanifin, Jr. . . . . 5 August 1970 - 21 July 1971

Col Robert J. Perrich . . . . . 22 July 1971 - 9 August 1972  
 Col Charles M. C. Jones, Jr. . . . . 10 August 1972 - 14 March 1973  
 Col Donald L. Evans . . . . . 15 March 1973 - 8 August 1973  
 Col Gary Wilder . . . . . 9 August 1973 - 29 July 1974  
 Col Alfred M. Gray, Jr. . . . . 30 July 1974 - 8 August 1975

Col Robert R. Haebel . . . . . 9 August 1975 - 1 April 1976  
 Col Ernest C. Cheatham, Jr. . . . . 2 April 1976 - 16 March 1977  
 Col Clair E. Willcox . . . . . 17 March 1977 - 13 March 1978

Col Richard A. Sulik . . . . .	14 March 1978 - 23 June 1978
Col Joseph E. Hopkins . . . . .	24 June 1978 - 14 April 1979
Col Warren H. Wiedhahn, Jr. . . . .	15 April 1979 - 23 June 1979
Col Charles H. Knowles . . . . .	24 June 1979 - 27 January 1980
Col William R. Etnyre . . . . .	28 January 1980 - 27 June 1980
Col Martin E. O'Connor . . . . .	28 June 1980 - 8 June 1981
Col Roger E. Knapper . . . . .	9 June 1981 - 9 June 1982)
Col James P. McWilliams . . . . .	10 June 1982 - 5 May 1983
Col James R. McElroy, Jr. . . . .	6 May 1983 - 30 May 1983
Col William T. Sweeney . . . . .	31 May 1983 - present



# 4th Marines

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## *LINEAGE*

1914 - 1925

ACTIVATED 16 APRIL 1914 AT PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON AS THE 4TH REGIMENT  
DEPLOYED DURING APRIL-MAY 1914 TO MEXICAN WATERS  
RELOCATED DURING JULY 1914 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT DEPLOYED DURING NOVEMBER 1915 - FEBRUARY 1916  
IN MEXICAN WATERS  
DEPLOYED DURING JUNE 1916 TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
ASSIGNED DURING NOVEMBER 1916 TO THE 2D BRIGADE  
RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1924 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AND DETACHED FROM  
THE 2D BRIGADE

1926 - 1940

ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED IN MAIL GUARD DUTY IN THE WESTERN  
UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1926 - FEBRUARY 1927  
DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 1927 TO SHANGHAI, CHINA  
ASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1927 TO THE 3D BRIGADE  
DETACHED DURING JANUARY 1929 FROM THE 3D BRIGADE  
REDESIGNATED 13 FEBRUARY 1930 AS THE 4TH MARINES  
EMPLOYED IN GUARDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT, SHANGHAI,  
FEBRUARY - JUNE 1932 AND AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1937  
ASSIGNED DURING SEPTEMBER 1937 TO THE 2D MARINE BRIGADE  
DETACHED DURING FEBRUARY 1938 FROM THE 2D MARINE BRIGADE

1941 - 1945

REDEPLOYED DURING NOVEMBER 1941 TO OLONGAPO, PHILIPPINES  
REDEPLOYED DURING DECEMBER 1941 TO CORREGIDOR, PHILIPPINES  
PARTICIPATED IN THE DEFENSE OF CORREGIDOR, JANUARY - MAY 1942  
CAPTURED BY ENEMY FORCES ON 6 MAY 1942. TEMPORARILY CEASED TO EXIST  
REACTIVATED 1 FEBRUARY 1944 ON GUADALCANAL BY REDESIGNATION FROM THE 1ST  
RAIDER REGIMENT  
ASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1944 TO THE 1ST PROVISIONAL BRIGADE

REASSIGNED DURING SEPTEMBER 1944 TO THE 6TH MARINE DIVISION  
PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS

PHILIPPINES  
NEW GEORGIA  
BOUGAINVILLE  
NORTHERN SOLOMONS  
BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO  
GUAM  
OKINAWA

REDEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1945 TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN  
REASSIGNED DURING NOVEMBER 1945 TO FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC  
REDEPLOYED DURING JANUARY - MARCH 1946 TO TSINGTAO, CHINA  
REASSIGNED DURING JANUARY 1946 TO THE 6TH MARINE DIVISION  
PARTICIPATED IN THE OCCUPATION OF NORTH CHINA, MARCH 1946 - SEPTEMBER 1946  
REASSIGNED DURING APRIL 1946 TO THE 3D MARINE BRIGADE  
REASSIGNED DURING JUNE 1946 TO THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION  
RELOCATED DURING SEPTEMBER 1946 TO CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA  
AND REASSIGNED TO THE 2D MARINE DIVISION  
REASSIGNED DURING JANUARY 1949 TO THE 2D PROVISIONAL MARINE REGIMENT  
DEACTIVATED 17 OCTOBER 1949

1952 - 1964

REACTIVATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1952 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AND ASSIGNED TO  
THE 3D MARINE DIVISION  
DEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1953 TO CAMP NARA, JAPAN  
RELOCATED DURING FEBRUARY 1955 TO KANEOHE BAY, TERRITORY OF HAWAII AND  
ASSIGNED TO THE 1ST PROVISIONAL MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE  
1ST PROVISIONAL MARINE AIR-GROUND TASK FORCE REDESIGNATED DURING MAY 1956  
TO THE 1ST MARINE BRIGADE

1965 - 1983

DEPLOYED DURING MAY 1965 TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND REASSIGNED TO THE  
3D MARINE DIVISION  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, MAY 1965 - NOVEMBER 1969, OPERATING FROM  
CHU LAI  
PHU BAI  
DONG HA  
CO BI THANH TAN  
CAMP EVANS  
CAMP CARROLL  
CAM LO

REDEPLOYED DURING NOVEMBER 1969 TO CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA  
ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA EVACUATIONS, APRIL 1975  
RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1979 TO CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA

# 4th Marines

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II

OKINAWA - 1945

VIETNAM 1965 - 1967

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

WORLD WAR II

PHILIPPINES - 1941 - 1942

PHILIPPINES - 1942

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II

GUAM - 1944

SOUTHEAST ASIA EVACUATIONS - 1975

MEXICAN SERVICE STREAMER

DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN STREAMER

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR I VICTORY STREAMER WITH "WEST INDIES"

YANGTZE SERVICE STREAMER

CHINA SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER AND TWO BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER WITH "ASIA" AND "EUROPE"

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER AND ONE BRONZE STAR

PHILIPPINE DEFENSE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY STREAMER WITH PALM

# The 9th Marines

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THE 9TH MARINES was originally activated on 20 November 1917 at Quantico, Virginia as the 9th Regiment of Marines. Several days after its activation, Lieutenant Colonel Frederic L. Bradman took command of the regiment. It was part of the great expansion of the Marine Corps during World War I. After a few short weeks of training the regiment was ordered to the Caribbean. Cuban sugar was vitally needed for the Allied war effort and the United States feared German influence in the area. After its arrival at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on 24 December 1917 the 9th Regiment was joined with the 7th Regiment to become the 3d Provisional Brigade. The situation in Cuba improved and Marines of the 9th Regiment were ordered to Texas to forestall the possible disruption by German agents of vital shipments from the Mexican oil fields. Upon arrival at Galveston in August 1918, the regiment went into camp at Fort Crockett. Through the remainder of World War I, the Marines spent their time in training and guard duty. When the war ended, the 9th embarked for Philadelphia where, on 25 April 1919, it was deactivated.

THE 9TH MARINES was reactivated on 12 February 1942 at Camp Elliott, San Diego as part of the 2d Marine Division. Colonel Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., took command of the regiment in March 1942. In September 1942 the 9th Marines was reassigned to the newly activated 3d Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. The regiment was deployed to Auckland, New Zealand in January-February 1943. Here intensive jungle and amphibious training was held. Approximately 18 months after its activation, the 9th Marines was ordered into combat. On D-Day, 1 November 1943, the 9th Marines, now commanded by Colonel Edward A. Craig, landed on beaches at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, then advanced inland. By 23 November it had moved as far as the impassable swamps to its front would allow. After exchanging sectors with the 3d Marines, the unit participated in the battle of Piva Forks. The 9th Marines was relieved on the front lines after spending 57 days helping to clear the Japanese from the Empress Augusta Bay area.

GUAM WAS THE NEXT OBJECTIVE for the men of the 9th Marines. Early on 21 July 1944, the amphibian tractors car-

rying the first assault waves of Colonel Craig's 9th Marines came ashore on the island in the face of Japanese defending fire. The next day the regiment pushed rapidly south along the shore to seize the Piti Navy Yard, and then moved into the hills to help drive out the Japanese. With this task accomplished, the unit became involved in securing the northern portion of Guam. The 9th reached the cliffs on the north coast on the afternoon of 9 August. With the end of organized resistance, the regiment participated in mopping-up operations on Guam.



*A working party carries food and ammunition to a 3d Marine Division unit on Hand Grenade Hill on Bougainville. The narrow trail hampered resupply.*

EMBARKING ON BOARD SHIPS in February 1945, the 9th Marines sailed from Guam for Iwo Jima, arriving in the floating reserve area on D-Day, 19 February. Five days later, the regiment, now commanded by Colonel Howard N. Kenyon, landed and moved up to the front. The Japanese controlled the rough, high ground and the 3d Marine Division was tasked with clearing the critical central portion of the Motoyama Plateau by means of a frontal assault. On the morning of 25 February, the 9th Marines passed through the front lines on the southern edge of Motoyama Airfield No. 2. For three days the Marines fought on and around the airfield. The Marines were able to drive the Japanese from two hills before being relieved by the 21st Marines. On 1 March, the 9th Marines again went into the lines, this time just east of the village of Motoyama. The fighting continued for the 9th Marines until 16 March. After mopping-up operations, the unit returned to Guam. With the end of the war, the regiment returned to Camp Pendleton where it was deactivated on 31 December 1945.

THE 9TH MARINES came back into existence on 1 October 1947 on Guam, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph A. Collins, Jr. For the next year, the 9th, which was activated at battalion strength, was occupied with usual peacetime activities. By November 1948 the civil war in China began seriously to endanger the safety of many Americans. The 9th Marines embarked for China. It remained on board ships ready to land should American lives and property be threatened. One rifle company and some of the reinforcing units went ashore to serve as a reserve force at Tsingtao. For the next three months, the 9th was engaged in evacuation operations, performing the Marines' traditional role of protectors of American lives, interests, and property in the Shanghai area. The 9th Marines then sailed for Camp Lejeune, arriving there in May 1949 and was assigned to the 2d Provisional Marine Regiment. On 17 October, the unit was deactivated.

DURING THE KOREAN WAR, the 9th Marines was again reactivated under the command of Colonel John J. Gormley at Camp Pendleton on 17 March 1952 as part of the 3d Marine Division. In the summer of 1953, the 3d Marine Division was ordered to Japan. The regiment with other elements of the division was constantly undergoing intensive training in amphibious and land warfare while in Japan. In January 1956, the 9th was redeployed to Sukiran, Okinawa, where the training continued. When a Communist buildup in Southeast Asia threatened Thailand, the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines proceeded to the Udorn area and remained there until the danger passed. The regiment

was permanently stationed on Okinawa until it was committed to Vietnam in 1965.

BATTALION LANDING TEAM (BLT) 3/9 landed on the beaches of Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, on 8 March 1965 to spearhead the landing of Marine ground units. Marines of the 3d Battalion immediately took up the mission of providing security for the Da Nang Air Base. The battalion continued the security of the air base and its immediate area until relieved by the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines on 17 June when the 3d Battalion returned to Okinawa. On 4 July 1965, the 9th Marines regimental Headquarters, commanded by Colonel Frank E. Garretson, and the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines arrived in Da Nang from Okinawa. The 3d Battalion returned to Vietnam in the middle of August.

FROM ITS INITIAL LANDING until early 1967, the regiment operated in the area south of Da Nang. Throughout the months of 1966 and early 1967, the 9th Marines conducted numerous search and clear operations to find the enemy, while strengthening the civic action programs to secure relations with the Vietnamese people, and free the people from the constant threat of Viet Cong terrorism. Noteworthy operations during this period were Macon, Mississippi, Independence, and Gulf.



*Marine riflemen of the 9th Marines combine firepower with tankers as they engage a well-dug-in North Vietnamese Army unit during Operation Kentucky in the northern part of South Vietnam.*

THE REGIMENT MOVED NORTH to Dong Ha where, for more than a year, elements of the 9th Marines operated in such places as Con Thien, Camp Carroll, and Gio Linh. Late in January 1968, during the Tet Offensive, an element of the regiment was sent to the Khe Sanh area where it participated in Operation Scotland. Under the operational control of the 26th Marines, men from the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines helped to hold the besieged Khe Sanh Combat Base against North Vietnamese attacks. After the breakout at Khe Sanh, the 9th Marines began conducting operations around the Rockpile and Vandegrift Combat Base.

THE 9TH MARINES was given the task of denying the enemy access to the Ashau Valley in January 1969. This marked the beginning of Operation Dewey Canyon. For the re-

mainder of its time in Vietnam, the regiment participated in Operations Apache Snow and Cameron Falls.

THE 9TH MARINES redeployed during July and August 1969 to Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and came under the operational control of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. During November 1969, the regiment was reassigned to the 3d Marine Division.

THROUGHOUT THE 1970S and early 1980s, the 9th Marines has conducted numerous training exercises, amphibious demonstrations, and battalion landing team tactical tests. The alert operational posture of the regiment was successfully tested in April 1975 when elements of the 9th Marines participated in the emergency evacuations in South Vietnam.

AS THE "STRIKING NINTH" moves through the 1980s, the regiment continues to maintain a high degree of combat readiness in all operational areas.

*The 3d Battalion, 9th Marines climbs the battle-scarred slopes of "Tiger Mountain" during Operation Dewey Canyon near South Vietnam's A Shau Valley in February 1969.*



## Commanding Officers 9th Marines

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1stLt Robert W. Williams . . . . .	20 November 1917 - 22 November 1917
Maj Rush R. Wallace . . . . .	23 November 1917 - 25 November 1917
LtCol Frederic L. Bradman . . . . .	26 November 1917 - 23 January 1918
Col Thomas C. Treadwell . . . . .	24 January 1918 - 17 August 1918
Col George C. Reid . . . . .	18 August 1918 - 25 April 1919
LtCol William B. Onley . . . . .	12 February 1942 - 15 March 1942
Col Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. . . . .	16 March 1942 - 19 July 1943
Col Edward A. Craig . . . . .	20 July 1943 - 21 September 1944
Col Howard N. Kenyon . . . . .	22 September 1944 - 13 October 1945
LtCol William R. Williams . . . . .	14 October 1945 - 26 November 1945
LtCol James H. Tinsley . . . . .	27 November 1945 - 30 December 1945
LtCol Ralph A. Collins, Jr. . . . .	1 October 1947 - 29 February 1948
Col Thomas B. Hughes . . . . .	1 March 1948 - 18 May 1949
LtCol William J. Piper, Jr. . . . .	19 May 1949 - 28 July 1949
LtCol Frederick R. Dowsett . . . . .	29 July 1949 - 17 October 1949
Col John J. Gormley . . . . .	18 March 1952 - 15 November 1952
Col William W. Buchanan . . . . .	16 November 1952 - 2 April 1954
Col George A. Roll . . . . .	3 April 1954 - 7 September 1954
LtCol John A. Copeland . . . . .	8 September 1954 - 24 October 1954
Col Cliff Atkinson, Jr. . . . .	25 October 1954 - 12 July 1955
LtCol Henry J. Revane . . . . .	13 July 1955 - 16 August 1955
Col Howard B. Bengé . . . . .	17 August 1955 - 1 March 1956
Col Peter J. Speckman . . . . .	2 March 1956 - 30 June 1956
Col Carl A. Laster . . . . .	1 July 1956 - 28 December 1956
LtCol James A. Donovan, Jr. (Acting) . . . . .	29 December 1956 - 5 January 1957
Col James C. Murray, Jr. . . . .	6 January 1957 - 14 July 1957
Col Clyde R. Nelson . . . . .	15 July 1957 - 1 May 1958
Col Francis W. Benson . . . . .	2 May 1958 - 16 September 1958
Col Leonard M. Mason . . . . .	17 September 1958 - 1 April 1959
Col Roy J. Batterton, Jr. . . . .	2 April 1959 - 16 October 1959
Col Randall L. Stallings . . . . .	17 October 1959 - 7 May 1960
Col Wilbur R. Homer . . . . .	8 May 1960 - 8 November 1960
Col William A. Stiles . . . . .	9 November 1960 - 28 June 1961
Col Samuel D. Mandeville, Jr. . . . .	29 June 1961 - 8 May 1962
Col John H. McMillan . . . . .	9 May 1962 - 4 September 1962



Col Gordon D. Gayle ..... 5 September 1962 - 16 February 1963  
 Col George R. Stallings ..... 17 February 1963 - 10 December 1963  
 Col Cleland E. Early ..... 11 December 1963 - 31 July 1964  
 Col Frank E. Garretson ..... 1 August 1964 - 13 August 1965  
 Col John E. Gorman ..... 14 August 1965 - 15 February 1966  
  
 Col Edwin H. Simmons ..... 16 February 1966 - 4 July 1966  
 Col Drew J. Barrett, Jr. .... 5 July 1966 - 6 October 1966  
 Col Robert M. Richards ..... 7 October 1966 - 4 April 1967  
 Col Robert M. Jenkins ..... 5 April 1967 - 17 May 1967  
 Col Edward E. Hammerbeck ..... 18 May 1967 - 28 May 1967  
  
 LtCol Joseph J. Kelly ..... 29 May 1967 - 3 June 1967  
 Col George E. Jerue ..... 4 June 1967 - 12 September 1967  
 Col Richard B. Smith ..... 13 September 1967 - 13 July 1968  
 Col Robert H. Barrow ..... 14 July 1968 - 8 April 1969  
 Col Edward F. Danowitz ..... 9 April 1969 - 7 September 1969  
  
 Col Jo M. Van Meter ..... 8 September 1969 - 3 December 1969  
 Col Robert J. Thomas ..... 4 December 1969 - 19 August 1970  
 Col Joseph V. McLernan ..... 20 August 1970 - 23 July 1971  
 Col Randlett T. Lawrence ..... 24 July 1971 - 3 March 1972  
 Col Vincente T. Blaz ..... 4 March 1972 - 16 August 1972  
  
 LtCol Frank R. Koethe ..... 17 August 1972 - 4 July 1973  
 Col Stephen G. Olmstead ..... 5 July 1973 - 7 May 1974  
 Col Gordon M. B. Livingston ..... 8 May 1973 - 8 July 1974  
 Col Willard J. Woodring, Jr. .... 9 July 1974 - 7 October 1974  
 Col Jack D. Rowley ..... 8 October 1974 - 27 March 1975  
  
 Col Wylie W. Taylor, Jr. .... 28 March 1975 - 25 May 1975  
 LtCol Robert C. Wise ..... 26 May 1975 - 8 August 1975  
 Col William Weise ..... 9 August 1975 - 11 August 1976  
 Col Robert H. Thompson ..... 12 August 1976 - 27 July 1977  
 Col George M. Edmondson, Jr. .... 28 July 1977 - 13 July 1978  
  
 Col Warren H. Wiedhahn ..... 14 July 1978 - 14 April 1979  
 Col Joseph E. Hopkins ..... 15 April 1979 - 18 June 1979  
 Col Joseph B. Knotts ..... 19 June 1979 - 31 May 1980  
 Col Hugh T. Kerr ..... 1 June 1980 - 28 March 1981  
 LtCol Reginald G. Ponsford ..... 29 March 1981 - 15 May 1981  
  
 Col John S. Grinalds ..... 16 May 1981 - 3 May 1982  
 Col Robert D. Shoptaw ..... 4 May 1982 - 25 February 1983  
 Col William H. Dabney ..... 26 February 1983 - 8 July 1983  
 Col Herbert L. Seay ..... 9 July 1983 - present

# 9th Marines

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## *LINEAGE*

1917 - 1919

ACTIVATED 20 NOVEMBER 1917 AT QUANTICO, VIRGINIA, AS THE 9TH REGIMENT  
DEPLOYED DURING DECEMBER 1917 TO GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, AND ATTACHED TO THE  
3D PROVISIONAL BRIGADE  
RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1918 TO FORT CROCKETT, GALVESTON, TEXAS,  
AND DETACHED FROM THE 3D PROVISIONAL BRIGADE  
RELOCATED DURING APRIL 1919 TO PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
DEACTIVATED 25 APRIL 1919

1942

REACTIVATED 12 FEBRUARY 1942 AT CAMP ELLIOT, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA,  
AS THE 9TH MARINES, 2D MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE  
REDESIGNATED 3 AUGUST 1942 AS THE 9TH MARINES, AMPHIBIOUS CORPS,  
PACIFIC FLEET  
REASSIGNED DURING SEPTEMBER 1942 TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE

1943 - 1945

DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 1943 TO AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND  
PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS  
BOUGAINVILLE  
NORTHERN SOLOMONS  
GUAM  
IWO JIMA  
RELOCATED DURING DECEMBER 1945 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA  
DEACTIVATED 31 DECEMBER 1945

1947 - 1949

REACTIVATED 1 OCTOBER 1947 ON GUAM AS THE 9TH MARINES, FLEET MARINE FORCE  
DEPLOYED DURING NOVEMBER 1948 TO TSINGTAO, CHINA  
REDEPLOYED DURING DECEMBER 1948 TO SHANGHAI, CHINA

RELOCATED DURING MAY 1949 TO CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND ASSIGNED TO  
THE 2D PROVISIONAL MARINE REGIMENT  
DEACTIVATED 17 OCTOBER 1949

1952 - 1964

REACTIVATED 17 MARCH 1952 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AS THE 9TH MARINES,  
3D MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE  
DEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER 1953 TO CAMP GIFU, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 1954 TO CAMP SHINODAYAMA, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING JULY 1954 TO CAMP SAKAI, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING JULY 1955 TO CAMP NAPUNJA, OKINAWA  
REDEPLOYED DURING JANUARY 1956 TO CAMP SUKIRAN, OKINAWA  
ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE DEPLOYMENT TO UDORN, THAILAND, MAY - JULY 1962

1965 - 1983

DEPLOYED DURING MARCH 1965 TO DA NANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, MARCH 1965-AUGUST 1969  
OPERATING FROM  
DA NANG  
DONG HA  
RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1969 TO CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA AND REASSIGNED TO THE 9TH MARINE AM-  
PHIBIOUS BRIGADE, FLEET MARINE FORCE  
REASSIGNED DURING NOVEMBER 1969 TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION  
ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT PARTICIPATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA EVACUATIONS, APRIL 1975

# 9th Marines

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II

IWO JIMA - 1945

VIETNAM 1965 - 1967

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY) STREAMER

VIETNAM

1969

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

VIETNAM

1968

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM

1967 - 1968

1968 - 1969

WORLD WAR I VICTORY STREAMER WITH "WEST INDIES"

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

CHINA SERVICE STREAMER

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER STARS

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY STREAMER WITH PALM

# The 12th Marines

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THE 12TH REGIMENT of Marines (Infantry), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jesse F. Dyer, was originally activated at Tientsin, China, on 4 October 1927 as a part of the 3d Brigade. The brigade, under the command of Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, was engaged in security measures for the protection of American lives and interests in the Tientsin-Shanghai area. However, the need for the Marine Corps to exercise rigid economy in the employment of its officer and enlisted personnel because of unusual demands on the Corps in both China and Nicaragua led Major General Commandant John A. LeJeune to order the deactivation of the regiment. On 22 April 1928, it was deactivated with one battalion going to the 4th Regiment and the other to the 6th Regiment.

THE 12TH MARINES, under the command of Colonel John B. Wilson, was reactivated at Camp Elliott, California, on 1 September 1942, as the artillery regiment of the 3d Marine Division. It moved to Camp Dunlap, Niland, California, a month later. The regiment began moving by increments to New Zealand in January 1943. Although the arrival of the 3d Battalion in May 1943 brought all four battalions to New Zealand, the regiment was hardly physically united, as the battalions were attached to regimental combat teams and were widely dispersed over the northern part of the island.

BOUGAINVILLE, the largest island in the Solomon Islands, became the Allies' target after the capture of Guadalcanal and New Georgia. The first step was to move the 3d Marine Division from New Zealand to Guadalcanal for training. The division then proceeded to Efate, New Hebrides, in October for a complete rehearsal of the projected landing. After the week-long exercises were completed, the division embarked for Bougainville.

TROOPS OF THE 12TH MARINES were busily engaged in getting guns and ammunition ashore on D-Day, 1 November 1943, and various battalions were in position by the end of the day, firing several registrations in preparation for action the first night. The remaining battalions were ready for support missions the following day. The effectiveness of the artillery on Bougainville may be measured by the

estimate that half the enemy dead in the Empress Augusta Bay area were the result of artillery shelling. The artillery preparation for the Piva Forks battle was described by Major General Allen H. Turnage, the 3d Marine Division commander, as; "Probably the most accurate I have ever known."

THE NEXT CAMPAIGN for Colonel Wilson's 12th Marines was the recapture of Guam, with the initial landing on 21 July 1944. The 3d Battalion, 12th Marines landed early and was in action less than four hours after the first wave hit the beach. All the artillery was ashore with all batteries in position and firing later that afternoon. The battle for Guam placed emphasis upon the fact that the key to effective fire support was rapid and efficient communication between forward observers and fire direction centers. The regiment used radios when necessary but wire communication was employed for most message traffic.

IN SEPTEMBER 1944, Admiral Nimitz advised Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith, commanding FMFPac, that it was desirable to retain both the 2d and 3d Marine Divisions in the Marianas for the planned attack on Iwo Jima. The plans being developed called for the 3d Division to be a reserve afloat and available on D-plus 3. The 12th Marines, now commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Raymond F. Crist, Jr., entered the picture on D-plus 5 (24 February 1945) landing just after noon. The days of the battle for Iwo Jima were marked by continuous artillery fire, day and night, in an attempt to soften the Japanese positions for the hard-pressed Marine infantrymen.

AFTER THE CAMPAIGN, the 12th Marines returned to Guam to rebuild and retrain for the next operation—the invasion of the home islands of Japan. By August 1945 the 12th Marines and the rest of the 3d Division were ready for the campaign, but the end of the war made this final effort unnecessary. The regimental strength dwindled with the end of the war. On 31 October 1945, the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines was deactivated on Guam. The regiment was detached from the 3d Marine Division on 1 December 1945 and embarked that same day for the United States. The 12th Marines was deactivated on 8 January 1946 at Camp Pendleton.

THE REGIMENT WAS REACTIVATED on 17 March 1952 at Camp Pendleton. In August 1953, the 12th Marines, now under Colonel Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., sailed from San Diego for Yokohama. Upon arrival in Japan the regiment was sent to Camp McNair where a program of continuous training began. Specialized training included participation in Operation Lotus in Okinawa in January 1954 where the troops received extensive training in the harsh ridges and the tough undergrowth.

THE 12TH MARINES (less the 3d Battalion) participated in an amphibious exercise on Iwo Jima in February 1956. Following this exercise, the regiment was transferred to Okinawa. The period of time from 1956 to 1964 was marked by routine training exercises including many SEATO maneuvers. This relative calm was interrupted in 1957 by a brief deployment of 1st Battalion, 12th Marines as part of a task force of the 3d Division that stood by offshore during a governmental crisis in Indonesia when American and foreign citizens were in danger. Later in May 1962, when the government of Thailand requested military assistance from SEATO, maneuvers in the Philippines were broken off, and BLT 3/9 was ordered to meet the request. The unit was transported to Bangkok and sent ashore. Detachments of Headquarters Battery and Battery F from the 2d Battalion were attached to BLT 3/9 for this operation.

ABOUT THIS TIME several new batteries were organized for service with the 12th Marines. Two new 4.2-inch mortar batteries, one for the 1st Battalion and one for the 2d Battalion, and a 107mm battery, designated the Howtar Battery, were all activated on 25 June 1962.

DURING 1964 elements of the 12th Marines (seldom more than a battery) were afloat off the coast of Vietnam in the South China Sea with the Marine Special Landing Force (SLF). The first elements of the regiment landed in Vietnam on 8 March 1965 and were followed by additional units. By July 1965 nearly the entire regiment, now commanded by Colonel James K. Callender, was in Vietnam, actively participating in the conflict as a part of the 3d Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Force.

ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT participated in a number of operations in 1965 and 1966 including Starlite, Prairie, New York, and Hastings. On 6 January 1967 at Phu Bai, after the regiment received additional self-propelled 155mm howitzers, the 1st Provisional 155mm Howitzer Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Marines was activated. By the



*Artillerymen of the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, at Con Thien, South Vietnam, fire high explosive and white phosphorous shells from a 105mm howitzer at a North Vietnamese Army unit on 19 October 1967.*

close of 1967, the 12th Marines had become the largest *de facto* regiment in Marine Corps history with eleven battalions, including three Army battalions, under the operational control of the 12th regimental headquarters.

THE ARRIVAL OF TET, the Vietnamese New Year, in January 1968 brought with it major attacks by enemy forces. Batteries of the 12th Marines in Quang Tri Province were heavily involved in the fighting. During the remainder of 1968, elements of the regiment fired a number of artillery missions into the demilitarized zone and the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. Combat operations, although fewer in number in 1969, carried the fight to the enemy's western base areas, cutting his lines of communication and supply and destroying his hidden war material. In mid-1969 the American withdrawal from Vietnam began. The 2d Battalion, 12th Marines redeployed to Okinawa in July 1969. The last elements of the 12th Marines, then under the command of Colonel Wallace W. Crompton, left Vietnam in December 1969.

DURING APRIL AND MAY 1975 elements of the 12th Marines supported Operations Eagle Pull and Frequent Wind in Cambodia and South Vietnam. The deployment of two ships' detachments and five batteries in support of these contingencies with little or no advance notification reflected the high state of operational and embarkation readiness of the 12th Marines.

THROUGHOUT THE 1970S and early 1980s, the 12th Marines has continued to provide artillery support for the 3d

Marine Division by participating in battalion landing team deployments and in division and regimental command post exercises and field firing exercises on Okinawa, in Japan, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea. Numerous combined exercises have been conducted throughout this period with the Republic of Korea Marines.

THE 12TH MARINES is meeting the challenges of the 1980s and is confident of its readiness and ability to support the mission of the 3d Marine Division.

*Expended artillery shell casings litter the ground beside a 105mm howitzer position of Battery E, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, located at the Con Thien Combat Base in South Vietnam, as it fires at North Vietnamese Army positions on Thanksgiving Day 1967.*



## Commanding Officers 12th Marines

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LtCol Jesse F. Dyer	4 October 1927 - 1 April 1928
Col John B. Wilson	1 September 1942 - 1 January 1945
LtCol Raymond F. Crist, Jr.	2 January 1945 - 1 April 1945
Col Joseph W. Earnshaw	2 April 1945 - 8 January 1946
LtCol Earl J. Rowse	17 March 1952 - 3 April 1952
LtCol Hoyt U. Bookhart, Jr.	4 April 1952 - 25 July 1952
Col Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.	26 July 1952 - 23 May 1954
Col Kenneth A. Jorgenson	24 May 1954 - 1 October 1954
Col Louis A. Ennis	2 October 1954 - 21 July 1955
LtCol Peter H. Hahn	22 July 1955 - 12 September 1955
Col William C. Capehart	13 September 1955 - 1 March 1956
Col John S. Twitchell	2 March 1956 - 20 June 1956
LtCol William G. Muller, Jr.	21 June 1956 - 28 July 1956
Col Forest C. Thompson	29 July 1956 - 11 June 1957
Col William F. Kramer	12 June 1957 - 21 June 1958
Col Norman A. Miller, Jr.	22 June 1958 - 17 September 1958
LtCol Joe B. Russell	18 September 1958 - 31 December 1959
LtCol Walter C. Wells	1 January 1960 - 25 February 1960
Col James P. Rathbun	26 February 1960 - 28 March 1961
Col Grant S. Baze	29 March 1961 - 22 July 1961
Col Clifford B. Drake	23 July 1961 - 3 August 1962
Col Nat M. Pace	4 August 1962 - 11 August 1963
Col Winsor V. Crockett, Jr.	12 August 1963 - 6 May 1964
Col William P. Pala	7 May 1964 - 15 July 1965
LtCol Walter E. Stuenkel	16 July 1965 - 30 July 1965
Col James K. Callender	31 July 1965 - 30 June 1966
Col Benjamin S. Read	1 July 1966 - 23 January 1967
Col William R. Morrison	24 January 1967 - 20 July 1967
Col Edwin S. Schick, Jr.	21 July 1967 - 21 May 1968
Col Wilson A. Kluckman	22 May 1968 - 4 July 1968
Col Peter J. Mulroney	5 July 1968 - 11 July 1969
Col Wallace W. Crompton	12 July 1969 - 25 February 1970
Col Robert E. Parrott	26 February 1970 - 2 August 1970
Col Joris J. Snyder	3 August 1970 - 11 June 1971
Col John P. O'Connell	12 June 1971 - 21 October 1971



Col William A. Lawrence . . . . . 22 October 1971 - 13 July 1972  
 LtCol James R. Bowser, Jr. . . . . 14 July 1972 - 20 August 1972  
 Col Jack E. Dausman . . . . . 21 August 1972 - 10 August 1973  
 Col James R. Gallman, Jr. . . . . 11 August 1973 - 25 July 1974  
 Col David B. Barker . . . . . 26 July 1974 - 16 July 1975  
  
 Col Howard M. Koppenhaver . . . . . 17 July 1975 - 28 March 1976  
 Col Roy L. Belli . . . . . 29 March 1976 - 13 January 1977  
 Col Andrew F. Bauer . . . . . 14 January 1977 - 29 September 1977  
 Col Clarence W. Dilworth . . . . . 30 September 1977 - 12 July 1978  
 Col Roger F. Scott, Jr. . . . . 13 July 1978 - 26 August 1978  
  
 Col Robert E. Gibson . . . . . 27 August 1978 - 27 June 1979  
 Col Hollis E. Davison . . . . . 28 June 1979 - 27 May 1980  
 Col Orville V. Lippold, Jr. . . . . 28 May 1980 - 12 November 1980  
 Col James E. Schulken . . . . . 13 November 1980 - 13 October 1981  
 Col William C. Doerner . . . . . 14 October 1981 - 11 September 1982  
 Col Robert M. Black . . . . . 12 September 1982 - 18 August 1983  
 Col Francis X. Chambers . . . . . 19 August 1983 - present

# 12th Marines

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## *LINEAGE*

1927 - 1928

ACTIVATED 4 OCTOBER 1927 AT TIENTSIN, CHINA AS THE 12TH REGIMENT AND  
ASSIGNED TO THE 3D MARINE BRIGADE  
DEACTIVATED 22 APRIL 1928

1942 - 1946

REACTIVATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1942 AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA AS THE 12TH  
MARINES AND ASSIGNED TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION  
RELOCATED DURING OCTOBER 1942 TO CAMP DUNLAP, CALIFORNIA  
DEPLOYED DURING MARCH 1943 TO AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND  
REDEPLOYED DURING JULY 1943 TO GUADALCANAL  
PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS  
BOUGAINVILLE  
NORTHERN SOLOMONS  
GUAM  
IWO JIMA  
RELOCATED DURING DECEMBER 1945 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA  
DEACTIVATED 8 JANUARY 1946

1952 - 1964

REACTIVATED 17 MARCH 1952 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AND ASSIGNED TO THE  
3D MARINE DIVISION  
DEPLOYED DURING AUGUST 1953 TO CAMP MCNAIR, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY 1956 TO OKINAWA

1965 - 1983

REDEPLOYED FROM MARCH-JULY 1965 TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, MAY 1965-NOVEMBER 1969, OPERATING FROM  
DA NANG  
PHU BAI

CHU LAI

HUE

REDEPLOYED FROM AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1969 TO CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA

RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1971 TO CAMP HAUGE, OKINAWA

RELOCATED DURING AUGUST 1976 TO CAMP ZUKERAN, OKINAWA

CAMP ZUKERAN RENAMED CAMP FOSTER DURING MARCH 1980

# 12th Marines

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

VIETNAM

1965 - 1967

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II

BOUGAINVILLE - 1943 - 1944

IWO JIMA - 1945

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

KOREAN SERVICE STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH TWO SILVER AND ONE BRONZE STAR

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY STREAMER WITH PALM

# The 21st Marines

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THE 21ST MARINES was activated on 14 July 1942 at New River, North Carolina. Colonel Daniel E. Campbell took command of the regiment at the end of the month. During July, August, and September, the three infantry battalions of the regiment were activated using men from the 6th Marines as the nucleus and adding personnel from Quantico and Parris Island. An intensive combat training program was began.

IN OCTOBER the regiment became part of the 3d Marine Division and was relocated to Camp Elliott, California, where training continued. Early in February 1943 the 21st Marines deployed to Auckland, New Zealand. Units of the regiment were billeted in a number of small camps over an area of several square miles. The final training for the regiment was conducted on Guadalcanal before the 21st Marines was ordered into combat.

DURING THE INITIAL PHASE of the Bougainville campaign the 21st Marines, under the command of Colonel Evans O. Ames, remained offshore in division reserve. On 6 November the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines landed and was attached to the 9th Marines. The remaining units of the regiment went ashore between 11-17 November. One company of the 3d Battalion was on board the USS *McKean* when it was attacked and sunk by enemy aircraft in Empress Augusta Bay. Thirty-eight men were reported missing. By the 20th all battalions had reverted to the 21st Marines' control and the regiment moved south. For the next few weeks fighting was light with no major action against enemy forces. During the second week in December 1943, however, the regiment became involved in the fighting around Hellzapoppin Ridge, Hill 600, and Hill 600A. The regiment's primary task was to reduce these positions and drive the remaining Japanese east of the Torokina River. The thick jungle and narrow trails added to the Marines' difficulties as they attempted to dislodge the enemy. Hellzapoppin Ridge fell on 18 December and Hill 600A was taken five days later. The 21st Marines was relieved by the 182d Infantry Regiment and on 9 January 1944 it embarked for the return to Guadalcanal.

THE REGIMENT'S NEXT OPERATION was the recapture of Guam. On 21 July 1944, the 21st Marines went ashore in the first waves of troops in the center of the 3d Division's Asan beachhead. The steeply sloping terrain provided excellent cover for the Japanese and precluded any rapid advance. Early on the morning of 26 July the enemy launched a coordinated counterattack, including a wild bayonet charge, against the Marines. The Japanese were driven back with heavy losses. The 21st Marines, now under the command of Colonel Arthur H. Butler, with the rest of the 3d Division, prepared to drive northeast along the length of the island. On 31 July, the 21st Marines left its line of departure and pushed steadily ahead through the rugged terrain. The regiment, on 1 August, passed into division reserve for a short time. Four days later, the 21st Marines with the 3d Marines moved toward Bijia Point meeting only isolated pockets of resistance. As the Marines combed the northern jungle, they encountered only disorganized remnants of the enemy. Guam was declared secure on 10 August, but the 21st Marines continued to patrol the northern jungles for disorganized remnants of the enemy.



*Major General Graves B. Erskine, seated rear, Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, and Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner, who commanded the expeditionary forces, talk with Marines at the command post of the 21st Marines on Iwo Jima in 1945.*

THE 21ST MARINES remained on Guam until it received orders for its next objective—Iwo Jima. The regiment left Guam a day earlier than the rest of the 3d Division, but when the unit arrived off Iwo, it went into corps reserve. On D plus 1, 20 February 1945, the regiment, now commanded by Colonel Hartnoll J. Withers, was ordered to land. The confusion and congestion on the beaches made the landing dangerous. The 21st Marines finally came ashore in heavy surf on 21 February. Early the next morning the regiment moved out to relieve the 23d Marines and was ordered to advance on the high ground between Airfields No. 1 and No. 2. The scarred and pitted terrain made progress slow and costly. On D plus 5 elements of the 21st Marines crossed Airfield No. 2 and were involved in heavy fighting in the area. The regiment went into reserve the following day. At dawn on D plus 9 it passed through the 9th Marines and resumed the attack. The 1st Battalion, 21st Marines advanced rapidly and captured the village of Motoyama and the high ground above Airfield No. 3. The 21st Marines continued forward in spite of heavy losses. On 7 March, the 21st Marines with the 9th Marines participated in a flanking movement to isolate an enemy strongpoint known as "Cushman's Pocket." It was finally destroyed on 16 March and Iwo Jima was declared secure.

WITH THE BATTLE of Iwo Jima over, the 21st Marines returned to Guam. Here training continued for the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland. After the surrender of Japan, the 2d Battalion, 21st Marines occupied the island of Truk. The 21st Marines was deactivated on Guam on 20 December 1945. The 2d Battalion left Truk in February and was deactivated on Guam on 5 March 1946.



*Wary Marines of a 60mm mortar crew of Company L, 3d Battalion, 21st Marines, pause in the attack on Airstrip No. 2 on Iwo Jima on 24 February 1945.*

*A member of Company L, 3d Battalion, 21st Marines, takes cover from heavy mortar and machine gun fire in the attack on Iwo Jima's Airstrip No. 2 on 24 February 1945.*



## Commanding Officers 21st Marines

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Col Daniel E. Campbell ..... 14 July 1942 - 11 January 1943  
Col Evans O. Ames ..... 12 January 1943 - 19 January 1944  
LtCol Arthur H. Butler ..... 20 January 1944 - 31 January 1944  
Col Robert Blake ..... 1 February 1944 - 20 April 1944  
Col Arthur H. Butler ..... 21 April 1944 - 30 November 1944  
  
Col Hartnoll J. Withers ..... 1 December 1944 - 6 May 1945  
Col Samuel B. Griffith II ..... 7 May 1945 - 20 December 1945

# 21st Marines

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## *LINEAGE*

1942 - 1945

ACTIVATED 14 JULY 1942 AT NEW RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA, AS THE 21ST MARINES

ASSIGNED DURING OCTOBER 1942 TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION

RELOCATED DURING NOVEMBER 1942 TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

DEPLOYED DURING FEBRUARY-MARCH 1943 TO AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS

NORTHERN SOLOMONS

BOUGAINVILLE

GUAM

IWO JIMA

DEACTIVATED 20 DECEMBER 1945 AT GUAM, MARIANA ISLANDS



# 21st Marines

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II

IWO JIMA - 1945

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION STREAMER

WORLD WAR II

GUAM - 1944

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

# The 26th Marines

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THE 26TH MARINES was activated at Camp Pendleton, California on 10 January 1944 as part of the 5th Marine Division. Lieutenant Colonel Lester S. Hamel was the regiment's first commanding officer. During early July, the regiment participated in exercises on San Clemente Island, some 60 miles off the coast of California. The regiment embarked on board the USS *Elliott*, *Baxter*, *Clay*, and *Arthur Middleton* at San Diego on 21 July and arrived at

Hilo, Hawaii 10 days later. Once there the 26th Marines was sent 65 miles inland to the former camp of the 2d Marine Division on the Parker Ranch at Kamuela known as "Camp Tarawa." Training and amphibious maneuvers continued while the regiment was in the Hawaiian Islands. In late January 1945, the 26th Marines sailed from Pearl Harbor. The convoy reached Eniwetok for refueling and then sailed on to Saipan. Iwo Jima was now the next stop.

*The flame thrower section and 81mm mortar platoon of the recently reactivated 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, files aboard a Navy transport for Operation Silver Point I in June 1966 as part of training prior to deployment to the Western Pacific and South Vietnam.*





*A perimeter guard turns away from the dust raised by a CH-46 as it lands near the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, during training at Camp Pendleton, California, in June 1966.*

ALTHOUGH THE 26TH MARINES had been placed in reserve, the entire regiment, commanded by Colonel Chester B. Graham, was on Iwo Jima by dusk on D-Day, 19 February 1945. The regiment held the center of the 5th Division's beachhead during the first night, but continued in division reserve for the next couple of days. On D plus 3 the regiment passed through the 27th Marines' lines and slowly advanced to the northeast. The 26th Marines participated in the attack on Airfield No. 2 and then moved northwest toward Hill 362A. Once the battle for 362A was over, the 26th Marines faced bloody fighting around the rocky terrain of Hill 362B and Nishi Ridge. At times the Marines were involved in fierce hand-to-hand combat. Casualties were high. By the end of the campaign, the 26th Marines had lost 650 men killed in action and died of wounds and 2,025 wounded in action. As the regiment reduced the last enemy resistance in the northwest, its 1st Battalion broke through to the sea. On 16 March 1945 Iwo Jima was declared secure.

THE 26TH MARINES sailed back to Hawaii at the end of March. By mid-April the 26th had reached Hilo and returned to its former camp site to begin the process of rebuilding. The return of many of the wounded as well as replacement drafts soon restored the regiment to strength while drill and training went on for the anticipated assault on southern Kyushu, in the Japanese islands. The unconditional surrender of Japan on 14 August 1945 made this assault unnecessary. The 5th Division was ordered to Japan for occupation duty. The 26th Marines boarded ships on 23 August and sailed from Pearl Harbor a week later. The

convoy arrived at dawn on 22 September off Sasebo in northwestern Kyushu. The Marines were to dispose of enemy war materiel and supervise both the return of Japanese to their homeland and the repatriation of Chinese and Korean citizens.

THE REGIMENT, which had responsibility for patrolling the areas north and east of Sasebo, was alerted on 13 October for transfer to the Palau Islands and arrived there two weeks later. Elements of the regiment took up garrison duty on Koror, Malakal, and Arakabesan. In late January 1946, the 26th Marines, at greatly reduced strength, sailed for the United States. The regiment was deactivated at Camp Pendleton on 5 March 1946.

AS THE VIETNAM WAR intensified, the 26th Marines was reactivated on 1 March 1966 at Camp Pendleton. The first elements of the regiment were deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in August 1966, when the 1st and 2d Battalions landed at Da Nang. The regimental headquarters reached Okinawa in the same month. The 3d Battalion arrived in Vietnam in October, completing the deployment of the 26th Marines' battalions. In April 1967, the headquarters departed Okinawa for Phu Bai and was assigned to the 3d Marine Division. The following month, the headquarters and the 1st Battalion relieved other 3d Marine Division units at the Khe Sanh Combat Base in western Quang Tri Province. The 3d Battalion arrived at Khe Sanh in June 1967. During the next few months these units participated in Operations Crockett, Ardmore, and Scotland I.

IN JANUARY 1968, the 2d Battalion, 26th Marines arrived at Khe Sanh, bringing the entire regiment together for the first time since its arrival in Vietnam. The 26th Marines was now commanded by Colonel David E. Lownds. Khe Sanh became the focal point of enemy activity in I Corps as the enemy continued a major buildup in the area, heavily shelled the base, and attacked the surrounding hill outposts. As the weather improved in early March, an exodus of major North Vietnamese units from the Khe Sanh area began to take place, although the enemy still maintained pressure on the combat base.

AS THE BATTLE OF KHE SANH ENDED and the roads opened

up to the base, the 26th Marines participated in Operation Scotland II from 15-18 April 1968. On 18 May, the regiment moved to the Da Nang area where it took part in a number of operations including Mameluke Thrust, Houston, and Meade River.

DURING 1969, elements of the 26th Marines operated as the Special Landing Force off the coast of Vietnam. With the withdrawal of the 3d Marine Division in the fall of 1969, the 26th Marines was reassigned to the 1st Division. In March 1970, the regiment returned to Camp Pendleton where it was deactivated on 30 April 1970.

*Members of Company E, 2d Battalion, 26th Marines, carry a casualty to a CH-34 medevac helicopter following a 1968 attack on their position on Hill 861A, which overlooks the combat base at Khe Sanh. (Photo courtesy of David Douglas Duncan)*



## Commanding Officers 26th Marines

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LtCol Lester S. Hamel . . . . . 10 January 1944 - 23 February 1944  
Col Chester B. Graham . . . . . 24 February 1944 - 5 March 1946  
LtCol Harvey L. Jensen . . . . . 1 March 1966 - 2 April 1966  
Col John J. Padley . . . . . 3 April 1966 - 11 August 1967  
Col David E. Lownds . . . . . 12 August 1967 - 11 April 1968  
  
Col Bruce F. Meyers . . . . . 12 April 1968 - 12 August 1968  
Col Clyde W. Hunter . . . . . 13 August 1968 - 11 February 1969  
Col Ray N. Jones . . . . . 12 February 1969 - 13 June 1969  
Col Ralph A. Heywood . . . . . 14 June 1969 - 12 December 1969  
  
Col James E. Harrell . . . . . 12 December 1969 - 30 April 1970

# 26th Marines

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## *LINEAGE*

1944 - 1946

ACTIVATED 10 JANUARY 1944 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AS THE  
26TH MARINES AND ASSIGNED TO THE 5TH MARINE DIVISION  
DEPLOYED DURING JULY 1944 TO HILO, HAWAII  
PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGN

IWO JIMA

REDEPLOYED DURING SEPTEMBER 1945 TO SASEBO, JAPAN  
REDEPLOYED DURING OCTOBER 1945 TO PELELIU, PALAU ISLANDS, AND  
DETACHED FROM THE 5TH MARINE DIVISION  
RELOCATED DURING JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1946  
AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA  
DEACTIVATED 5 MARCH 1946

1966 - 1970

REACTIVATED 1 MARCH 1966 AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA  
ASSIGNED DURING MAY 1966 TO FORCE TROOPS, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC  
DEPLOYED DURING JULY-AUGUST 1966 TO CAMP SCHWAB, OKINAWA AND  
REASSIGNED TO THE 9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE  
REDEPLOYED DURING APRIL 1967 TO PHU BAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
AND REASSIGNED TO THE 3D MARINE DIVISION  
PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM, APRIL 1967 - MARCH 1970,  
OPERATING FROM

KHE SANH  
DA NANG  
QUANG NAM

REASSIGNED DURING OCTOBER 1969 TO THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION

RELOCATED DURING MARCH 1970 TO CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA AND  
REASSIGNED TO THE 5TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE

DEACTIVATED 30 APRIL 1970

# 26th Marines

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## *HONORS*

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH TWO BRONZE STARS

WORLD WAR II

IWO JIMA - 1945

VIETNAM

1967

1968

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER WITH "ASIA"

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER

VIETNAM SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER AND FOUR BRONZE STARS

VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY STREAMER WITH PALM

VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION CIVIL ACTIONS STREAMER





*The device reproduced on the back cover is the oldest military insignia in continuous use in the United States. It first appeared, as shown here, on Marine Corps buttons adopted in 1804. With the stars changed to five points, this device has continued on Marine Corps buttons to the present day.*

